

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

October 12, 2006

CALL TO PODIUM:

David B. Humpton,
City Manager

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

David B. Humpton
Tony Tomasello,
Assistant City Manager
Cindy Hines,
Olde Towne Coordinator

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proclamation/Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Hearing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Historic District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resolution
<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Discussion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:

Discussion of a Potential Site within the Festival at Muddy Branch Shopping Center for an Employment Center within the City of Gaithersburg to be Funded and Operated by Montgomery County

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:

A potential location for a Montgomery County-run employment center has been identified at the Festival at Muddy Branch Shopping Center on Muddy Branch Road. Staff feels it meets much of the criteria set forth by Gaithersburg's Day Laborer Task Force.

The Special Work Session will begin with a panel of speakers addressing various aspects of the center –

1. Dave Humpton, City Manager – Will introduce the panel and provide background on the proposed location
2. Mr. Norman Dreyfuss – Mr. Dreyfuss is the landlord of the Wheaton site and has agreed to relate his experiences with that operation
3. Chris Bonvillian, Police Captain – Will discuss the involvement of the police in managing the current gatherings of workers and report on feedback from Montgomery County police regarding the Wheaton center

A Resolution endorsing this site is attached and will be available on Thursday night. The City Manager would then undertake negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montgomery County relating to the establishment, funding, and operation of the center. The MOU would be brought back to the Council for approval as soon as possible.

Attachments – Background Memos (2)
Resolution

DESIRED OUTCOME:

Vote on Resolution

MEMORANDUM TO: David B. Humpton

FROM: Cindy Hines, Olde Towne Coordinator

DATE: October 9, 2006

SUBJECT: Wheaton Employment Center - Site Visit

In exploring the potential impact of existing employment centers on neighboring businesses, I visited the stores in the shopping strip where the Wheaton Employment Center is located. I spoke with representatives of all of the businesses and did not get one negative comment. The consensus was that businesses experienced no problems related to the center.

The manager of a residential facility located above the center acknowledged that, initially, she was very apprehensive about the proposed use. However, she stated that none of the anticipated concerns ever materialized. Currently, 168 families live in the complex.

MEMORANDUM TO: David B. Humpton, City Manager
FROM: Mary Ann Viverette, Chief of Police
DATE: October 5, 2006
SUBJECT: Gaithersburg Employment Center

Given that the Mayor and Council are exploring the opening of an Employment Center in the City of Gaithersburg, I discussed the issue yesterday with Captain Patty Walker. Captain Walker was the 4th District Commander in Wheaton when the Employment Center in Wheaton was established.

Captain Walker advises that Ms. Natalie Cantor of the Mid-County Government Center had the bulk of the responsibility with regard to planning. Although Captain Walker is now in charge of the Major Crimes Unit, she advises that, from a police perspective, the site on Veirs Mill Road was not problematic. Specifically, she informed me that there was no increase in crime or criminal activity related to the employment center.

Captain Walker's recollection was that the opening of the location generated little fanfare and that, from her perspective, the businesses were fine with it. While assigned as the 4th District Commander, it was her belief that most of the day laborers used the site and that they were cooperative on the occasions they had to be moved from other areas. Captain Walker believes that it was helpful for her personnel to direct individuals to the established Employment Center when the need arose to disperse them from other areas. On occasion, police officers would go to the site and conduct training on issues that may be of interest to day laborers (i.e., driving laws, drinking in public, etc.).

Few Minuteman Civil Defense Corps volunteers were ever at the site, and when present caused no problems.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION ENDORSING A SITE WITHIN THE FESTIVAL AT MUDDY
BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER AS THE LOCATION FOR AN EMPLOYMENT
CENTER IN THE CITY OF GAITHERSBURG TO BE FUNDED
AND OPERATED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY

WHEREAS, the City of Gaithersburg commissioned a citizen task force to explore the operation of an employment center and to develop criteria for selection of a site for such a center; and

WHEREAS, the task force recommended that such a center be located in the City and the Mayor and City Council endorsed that recommendation; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County government has determined that employment centers serve the needs of day laborers and benefit the community at-large, and it has established and funded such centers in Wheaton and Silver Spring and has expressed a commitment to do so within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified a location within the Festival at Muddy Branch Shopping Center that is an appropriate and suitable location for an employment center that will serve workers within the City and from other areas of upper Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, the City and the County have determined that it is in the best interests of both parties to establish, via a Memorandum of Understanding, a partnership by which a location for the Center could be established, funded, and operated:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the site for an employment center at the Festival at Muddy Branch Shopping Center is hereby endorsed by the City Council.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to undertake negotiations on a Memorandum of Understanding with Montgomery County, Maryland relating to the establishment, funding, and operation thereof.

ADOPTED by the City Council this 12th day of October, 2006.

SIDNEY A. KATZ, MAYOR and
President of the Council

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing
Resolution was adopted by the City Council
in public meeting assembled on the 12th
day of October, 2006

David B. Humpton, City Manager